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Subject PRO/AH/EDR> Avian influenza (62): South Korea (GN) H5N1, wild bird, RFI

AVIAN INFLUENZA (62): SOUTH KOREA (CHUGCHEONGNAM-DO), WILD BIRD,
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

A ProMED-mail post

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Date: Fri 10 Dec 2010

Source: Yonhap News [edited]

<<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/business/2010/12/10/0501000000AEN20101210007700320.HTML>>

South Korean quarantine officials found 2 dead eagle owls infected with the virulent strain of bird flu in the central western part of the country on Friday [10 Dec 2010].

The farm ministry, however, said that the discovery of the owls did not mean South Korea was affected by the disease, since no domestically raised ducks and chickens have become sick from the highly contagious influenza. Exports of poultry will not be affected by the discovery, it stressed.

The wild birds were found dead in Seosan, 151 km south of Seoul [map at <<http://healthmap.org/r/0iMv>>]. Local quarantine officials carried out routine tests and discovered the birds had the H5N1 strain of the influenza virus, the ministry said.

Bird flu is an air-borne disease that is usually transmitted between animals. The disease can spread to humans, but no human cases have been reported in the country so far.

The country's quarantine authorities, meanwhile, have stepped up an existing bird flu prevention campaign after a wild duck on the Mangyeong River tested positive for the influenza virus earlier in the week [archived [20101208.4377](#)].

The country was hit a total of 3 times by avian influenza, with the latest outbreak occurring in April of 2008 and resulting in a record 8.46 million birds being culled at a cost of around 264 billion won [USD 215.7 million]. Previous outbreaks took place in the winter months of 2003-2004 and 2006-2007.

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Communicated by:

ProMED-mail Rapporteur Mary Marshall

[The above newswire reports that the 2 eagle owls were "infected with the virulent strain of bird flu" and that "routine tests discovered the birds had the H5N1 strain." Official laboratory confirmation, including pathogenicity, are anticipated.

The HPAI H5N1 case detected in a wild mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*) collected on 29 Nov 2010 in the Cholla-Bukdo province (also known as Jeollabuk-do, or North Jeolla), as reported in archived [20101208.4377](#), has been laboratory confirmed on 7 Dec 2010. Accordingly, S. Korea notified the OIE about this finding on 9 Dec 2010 [see [20101211.4410](#)]. The immediate notification, with map, is available at http://www.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=single_report&pop=1&reportid=10029. It includes the following epidemiological comment:

"As part of a continuous avian influenza surveillance programme, 39 wild birds were captured, and samples (faeces, laryngo-pharyngeal swab) were collected. The NVRQS found avian influenza antigen (H5) by PCR and confirmed it as highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) virus by gene sequencing from one mallard duck on 7 Dec 2010. Clinical surveillance and disinfection on the neighbouring poultry farms were enhanced."

The current case, in Seosan, in the province Chungcheongnam-do (South Chungcheong or Chungnam), is situated at a distance of at least 120 km from the mallard duck case, mentioned above. If confirmed as HPAI H5N1, it means a wider circulation of the virus within wild birds.

In any event, such findings demonstrate the merit of the surveillance policy applied by the S. Korean authorities. Early detection of circulating virus enables preventive measures to be undertaken in a timely manner in commercial farms. - Mod.AS]

[see also:

Avian influenza (61): South Korea (CB), H5N1, OIE [20101211.4410](#)
Avian influenza (60): South Korea (CB) H5N1, wild bird, RFI [20101208.4377](#)
Avian influenza (49): South Korea, LPAI ,H7N6, ducks, OIE [20101105.4014](#)
Avian influenza (48): South Korea, LPAI, H7N7, ducks, OIE [20101019.3790](#)
Avian influenza (35): S Korea (CN) LPNAI H7N7, OIE [20100521.1685](#)
2009

Avian influenza (59): S Korea (KW), low pathogenic, RFI [20091113.3932](#)
Avian influenza (14): S Korea LPNAI H5, Viet Nam HPNAI H5N1 [20090219.0701](#)
2008

Avian influenza (100): S. Korea, LPAI H5N2, conf. [20081007.3164](#)
Avian influenza (99): S. Korea, susp., RFI [20081005.3143](#)
Avian influenza (67): South Korea [20080504.1523](#)
Avian influenza (63): South Korea [20080421.1419](#)
Avian influenza (62): South Korea, update [20080415.1361](#)
Avian influenza (60): South Korea, 4th outbreak, duck [20080411.1321](#)
Avian influenza (56): South Korea, 2nd outbreak, duck [20080405.1250](#)
Avian influenza (55): South Korea, Viet Nam, OIE [20080404.1239](#)
2007

Avian influenza (178): Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, S. Korea [20071126.3827](#)
Avian influenza (177): S. Korea, LPAI H7, susp. [20071124.3797](#)
Avian influenza (31): Pakistan, S. Korea, Turkey, Russia, Japan [20070211.0523](#)
Avian influenza, human (18): South Korea 2006 [20070121.0289](#)
Avian influenza, human (08): South Korea: 2006 [20070111.0119](#)
2006

Avian influenza (218) - South Korea [20061219.3562](#)
Avian influenza (217) - South Korea, EU [20061211.3495](#)
Avian influenza (216) - South Korea: H5N1, OIE, conf [20061128.3374](#)
Avian influenza (214) - South Korea: H5N1 conf [20061125.3357](#)
Avian influenza (213) - South Korea: H5N1, OIE, susp [20061125.3356](#)
Avian influenza, human (146): South Korea, asymptomatic [20060916.2633](#)
Avian influenza, human - worldwide (15): S.Korea, Malaysia [20060224.0603](#)

2005

Avian influenza - Eurasia (104): S. Korea, wild birds, surveillance
[20051219.3639\]](#)

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